shall not be predetermined, but shall be left to be determined by competitive market conditions.

Tapping of hydro power potential

85. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether hydro power potential in some States has not been tapped at the desirable pace;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some States are reluctant to follow the norms laid down by the Union Government in signing the MoUs for setting up of Hydro Power Projects in their States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) out of about 1,50,000 MW of exploitable hydro electric potential identified, 20.3% has been developed and 9.4% is under development. The hydro power potential of Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern States *viz*. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh could not be harnessed at desired pace. The development of hydro potential has been slow due to the following reasons:

(i) Difficult/in-accessible sites.

(ii) Environment, Forest and Wildlife Clearance related problems.

(iii) Land acquisition and Rehabilitation problems.

(iv) Law and order problems.

(v) Paucity of Funds & longer gestation period.

(vi) Adverse geological conditions.

(vii) Inter-state aspects.

(vii) Higher initial construction cost.